



U.S. Department of Justice


Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

October 30, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FROM: Robert Raben 
Assistant Attorney General

SUBJECT: Weekly Report for October 30, 2000 - November 3, 2000

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wen Ho Lee: Draft responses to questions for the record from Senator Leahy, in follow up of the September 26 and 27 hearings, are being prepared by CRM. A draft response to the Intelligence Committees and Senate Judiciary was circulated and is being finalized. Responses to document requests for sealed records and deliberative materials are being deferred until after conclusion of the debrief; committee staff have been informed. The Department of Energy is separately responding to document requests from Senate Judiciary; they are coordinating production of documents with the Department. Senator Specter's staff have suggested there may be additional hearings in November and December but nothing firm has been announced. (Walter)

CJS Immigration Provisions: OLA, INS and ODAG continue to work with the White House and Democratic Members of Congress to push for the inclusion of the Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act (LIFA) in the CJS appropriations bill. LIFA does three things: 1) grants the ability to apply for permanent residence to those Central Americans, Haitians and Liberians left out of NACARA; 2) changes the "registry date" to 1986, thereby allowing anyone in the U.S. by 1986 to apply for permanent residence; and 3) restores 245(i) relief. (First)

Telecom: The DeWine/Kohl telecom merger bill [S. 467], which the Department and FBI oppose because it does not provide adequate protections for law enforcement and national security concerns, is among the measures that could be attached to an appropriations or omnibus bill; OMB and appropriations staff have been alerted to the Department's objections and we are monitoring the bill's status. (Walter)

Leak prosecutions: Opposition from media and civil liberties groups to this provision in the Intelligence Authorization Conference Report intensified last week and will likely continue. The groups seek a veto of the bill by the President, or to attach a rider to an appropriations or omnibus bill that would delay implementation of the provision for a year. Background materials, including the testimony from the June hearing before Senate Intelligence and the Department's views on needed revisions, were sent to OMB and the White House last week. (Walter)

Bankruptcy: Senator Lott still has not filed for cloture on bankruptcy reform legislation. We have heard he will wait until 48 hours before adjournment to file, so that it will be among the final pieces of legislation voted on in the Senate. The President is expected to veto the legislation. (Wilson)

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

FISA: On October 27, representatives from OIPR, CRM and the FBI met with staff of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence to discuss Justice Department and FBI implementation of the requirement in the Intelligence Authorization conference report that sharing of FISA-derived information with law enforcement be reported to the Committee. (Walter)

Nominations: On October 26, the Senate confirmed the nominations of Ramsey Johnson and Gerald Fisher, both to be judges on the D.C. Superior Court. (Scott-Finan)

Voter Intimidation: On October 25, staff from OLA and the Civil Rights Division met with Congressman Dale Kildee to hear concerns about voter intimidation in Flint, Michigan. The City Clerk has requested election monitors. (Scott-Finan)

Prince George's County: On October 24, representatives of the Civil Rights Division and OLA met with Congressman Wynn and listened to his concerns about police issues in Prince George's County. Additionally, Assistant Attorney General Bill Lann Lee, Deputy Assistant Attorney General Stuart Ishimaru and staff from OLA met with students from Howard University and Richard Boykin, chief of staff for Congressman Danny Davis, on October 25 about the Prince Jones shooting. (Scott-Finan)

Wartime Violation of Italian American Civil Liberties Act: On October 19, H.R. 2442, the Wartime Violation of Italian American Civil Liberties Act, was passed by the Senate. On October 24, the House agreed to the Senate amendments clearing the measure for the President's signature. The measure had been amended by the Senate Judiciary Committee to address our constitutional concerns; however, it still leaves the review with the Department and not an independent commission about which we continue to be concerned. (Scott-Finan)